



# GROUNDCOVER

NEWS AND SOLUTIONS FROM THE GROUND UP

JULY 2019 VOLUME 10 ISSUE 7

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**Rent-a-goat**  
p. 4



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## Soaring rents turn housing into a major election issue



by Jim McBee  
Managing Editor

“Why more liberal cities have less affordable housing” — *The Washington Post*

“Liberal America’s single-family hypocrisy” — *The Nation*

“Renters are mad. Presidential candidates have noticed.” — *The New York Times*

“Why Democratic presidential contenders are discussing affordable housing” — *National Public Radio*

“Will housing swing the 2020 election?” — *City-Lab*

Health care, immigration, taxes, guns, abortion, terrorism: If you pay any attention to the news, you recognize

these as hot-button issues that galvanize voters. Not housing. Headlines like these indicate that may be changing.

Ann Arbor’s not the only city in the nation with soaring housing prices that push working folks into the hinterland from which they must make long commutes on crowded highways and streets to jobs. And it’s causing friction. People are speaking up at town halls held by Democratic presidential candidates: The rent is too damn high.

One of the main culprits: zoning that restricts huge swaths of city land to single-family homes. That means that, no matter how many jobs are created in the city limits, only so many folks can live there. In Ann Arbor, we’re pretty much at that limit; there’s little land left to develop. The only way to increase the city’s population is to put more housing in the same footprint. And there’s a backlash from homeowners nearly any

time the possibility of denser housing comes up.

That’s not a recent development. Ann Arbor hasn’t done much to increase its housing stock for 30 years. Even efforts to loosen restrictions on granny units have failed more than once.

The result: Ann Arbor is becoming more and more segregated. We’ve become a city for rich, old white people. Ypsilanti is feeling the gentrification pressure as the working class gets squeezed out of Ann Arbor. And anyone who goes near Washtenaw Avenue, Packard Road, Interstate 94 or U.S. 23 feels the pressure of the tens of thousands of people who commute to Ann Arbor for work.

The most visible concession to growth — luxury student apartment towers downtown — has rubbed people the wrong way. I don’t like their cold, ge-

neric facades, either, but what a nightmare it would have been had they not been built to accommodate the University of Michigan’s inflated student body.

The people who’d benefit most from increased availability of housing in Ann Arbor work here, but don’t live here. They don’t come to City Council meetings. They can’t vote in city elections. So I’m not sure how much effect this upwelling of frustration and anger over the cost of housing will affect local politics.

But you don’t even have to believe housing should be “legislated as a human right,” as New York Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez puts it, to see that things have gotten out of whack. We’re creating urban sprawl outside the city limits so we can enjoy our leafy streets and insist everyone have a big yard and a driveway for their cars. Those feel like 1970s values, not 2020s values.

## Grant will send three of our vendors to college

by Groundcover staff

Groundcover News is excited to announce its first scholarship program for vendors.

With a grant of \$1,500 from the First Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Ann Arbor’s Jackson Social Welfare Fund — and a matching \$2,500 from one of the fund’s co-chairs — the Groundcover Education Scholarship Fund will allow three vendors to take a higher-education class at Washtenaw Community College starting in August.

The scholarships will each cover the cost of one four-credit course, books

and supplies, transportation and a notebook computer. Vendors who wish to participate in WCC’s Adult Transitions GED program may also apply.

Groundcover scholars will take a course in composition, journalism, creative writing or another topic that relates to our work. They will make weekly progress reports and, at the end of the semester, they’ll run a workshop to share what they’ve learned with the Groundcover community.

The Jackson Fund dates back to 1955, when George L. and Bessie Jackson bequeathed money to what was then the Unitarian Church of Ann Arbor,



according to the First Unitarian website. The fund supports the principles of the First Amendment and peaceful conflict resolution.

## LETTERS to the EDITOR

### Groundcover has improved new vendor’s life

My name is Mario J. Olmos Casanova. Forget about the name and please listen to my experience. This has to do with my first day as a Groundcover vendor.

I’m presently homeless and I’ve tried many resources to better my situation to no avail (no comment on the help I received). There are many of my homeless brothers and sisters that can definitely relate on that tip.

Enough said! I’m happy to have been introduced to Groundcover, the staff, the volunteers and the rest of the population that are involved. My life is already better because of this association. And I love people again! Muchas gracias, Groundcover!

Mario J. Olmos Casanova  
Groundcover Vendor #488

### Expressing our gratitude

To buy and sell Groundcover shares the love.

Denise Shearer  
Groundcover Vendor #485



## A fond farewell from one who’s been here since the beginning



by Rev. Dr.  
Martha Brunell  
Groundcover  
Contributor

There is a phrase in traditional Christian wedding vows that I have long borrowed to describe this culture we live in — “to have and to hold.” We are a “to have and to hold” people. One of the dominant values of the culture is to consume, to accumulate, to keep enlarging the pile that we have and hold. It’s been 45 years since I entered seminary and a covenantal pattern of ministry as a defining container for my life. In those many years, I have bumped into a number of societal and personal examples of our tilt toward having and holding.

Much of my time since 1974 has been spent in marginal urban settings and in end-of-life care with patients and their loved ones. In the early years of my ministry, I found it often scared many of my colleagues and our denominational structure when I spoke honestly about the life-giving mix of pain and

joy in our ragged city neighborhood. They could only see the decline and the reminders of human mortality on every side. Similarly, when I shared all I was learning with hospice patients and those who cared for them, one colleague described me as “the angel of death.” It seemed what animated me in ministry was in direct conflict with cultural desires to have and to hold forever.

My life has been richer the last 35 years with the presence of my two daughters, Amanda and Molly. The various phases of their growing up and into who they are have largely been a delight. I am fortunate that as adults the three of us live near one another. But I have long recognized that parenting is a consistent and sometimes heartbreaking rhythm of letting go. Our children transition continually away from us and toward the fullness of their own lives. Too much having and holding just makes it harder.

When I was finishing my Doctor of Ministry degree in 2001-2002 — with all that writing — I was in my element. I loved to write. It was a form of prayer for me. But while churning out all those

words, I realized one day that too much of a good thing is not primarily a good thing. An excess of having and holding what we love can choke it.

I have been blessed now well into my seventh decade of life with an abundance of energy and good health. I have filled my days and been busy with things that matter to me. The aspect of aging that I have found most annoying has been the downsizing of my energy with passing years. I have gone from being able to squeeze just about everything into a day, a week, a month, a year to needing to be much more deliberate about where I offer time and energy. Making all those choices isn’t always what I want. However, I don’t have or hold as much of either time or energy as I once did.

Walking into my home, there is no question that I’m a reader. I have culled my personal and professional library on several occasions, and still there are more than enough books. The books are one obvious indication of more than enough stuff. I don’t live in an oversized home or in one that I have occupied for decades, but oh all the treasured things that I have collected and gathered.

This assortment of having and holding experiences is a gentle introduction to what I want to say to you who have read what I have written the last nine years. Groundcover News came into print in the summer of 2010. I wrote my first column in November of that year. This column is my 102nd and last column for the paper. One of my favorite monthly moments these last nine years has been to close my eyes and imagine the diversity of people selling the paper, reading my column and sometimes stopping me on the street to talk about it.

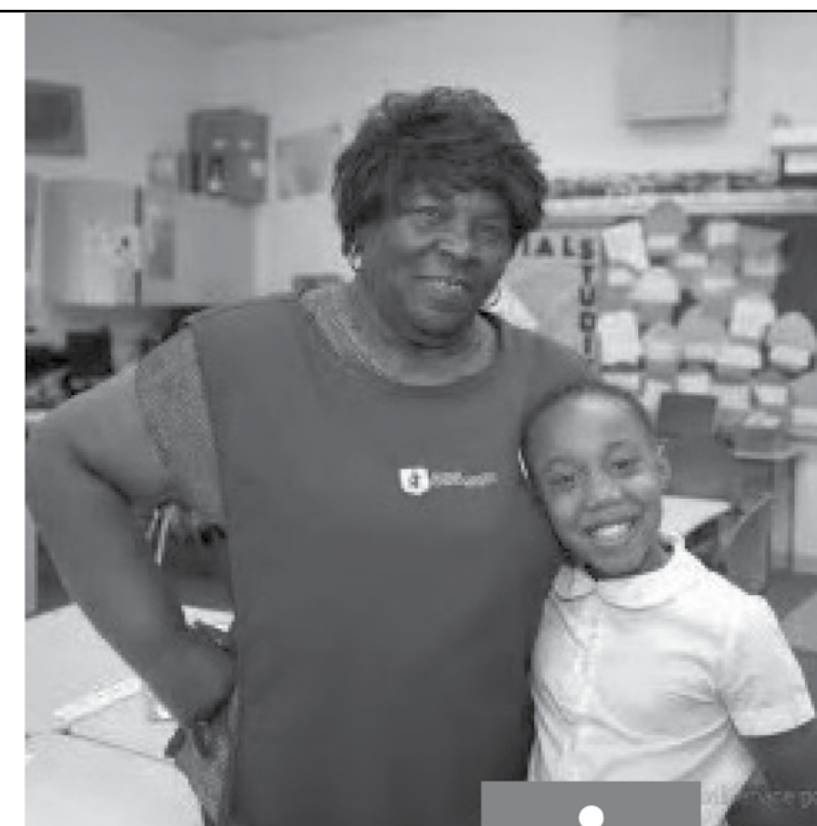
It has been invigorating for me to bring to mind and heart a wide breadth of people across Washtenaw County and what might speak from my life to theirs. At the same time, I do remind myself and others that everything has a life span, and there are seasons for having and holding and others for releasing and emptying. I sense clearly this is a time for my Groundcover writing commitment and connection to be completed. My deepest thanks are extended to you for sharing this journey on paper with me.

Peace, Martha

# Make A Difference... Become A Foster Grandparent

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## GROUNDCOVER MISSION:

Creating opportunity and a voice for low-income people while taking action to end homelessness and poverty.

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## They're quieter than a mower, too

by Jim McBee  
Managing Editor

Mike Mourer got into goats to deal with poison ivy — they're not allergic to it. Now his family keeps four groups of goats on Milan's Twin Willow Ranch to rent out to folks who have unwanted plants.



Mike Mourer (above) of Twin Willow Ranch in Milan, with guests and goats. Photos by Jim McBee

In June, the folks with the plants were the City of Ann Arbor. A couple of tiny Huron River islands in Gallup Park were overgrown, especially with buckthorn, an invasive understory tree that chokes out native species. The city wants to make the islands more inviting to park-goers.

Goats were domesticated about 10,000 years ago, Mourer said just before shepherding a group of visitors for a "goat walk" on June 10. His breed is Boer goat, a South African line that can grow up to 300 pounds. "These ones are all two to four years old," he said of his herd.

The animals were well-behaved around children, who sought to feed

them leafy branches plucked from the undergrowth. Some goats were more amenable to petting than others.

Goats' advantages over clearing undergrowth with machines are that they leave behind fertilizer and their four stomachs eliminate seeds. Goats aren't particularly discriminating, though; if it's green, they'll eat it.

By June 27, the goats were gone and so was a lot of underbrush. You can see the river from any point on the islands. Downside: The buckthorns were already sprouting new leaves.



## 10 for \$10

### Exploring Washtenaw County on the cheap

by Elizabeth Bauman  
Groundcover Contributor

Looking for something to do that won't break the bank? Hoping to try something new? Wanting a little something sweet or savory? **10 for \$10** is here to provide you with low-cost or free things to do in Washtenaw County.

**1.** Find a **firework display** in your community and celebrate Independence Day. **Free.**

**2.** On July 5, Michigan Rat-tlers perform with Misty Lyn for the **Sonic Lunch** concert 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at Liberty Plaza

(310 Division Street, Ann Arbor). Get there early and enjoy the music. **Free.**

**3.** **First Friday Ypsilanti** is a self-guided monthly art walk through downtown Ypsilanti. Each month the venues change, but always include free art activities. Noon-11:59 p.m., July 6. **Free.**

**4.** Watch a classic movie at the **Michigan Theater's Summer Classic Film Series**, Sundays at 1:30 and Wednesdays at 7 p.m. Runs through August. Tickets \$10.50 adults, \$8.50 seniors/students/children. 603 Liberty Street, Ann Arbor.

**5.** Get a plate at the **66th annual Manchester Chicken Broil**, 4-8

p.m. July 18 at Manchester's Alumni Memorial Field. Tickets are \$9 in advance or \$10 the day of. See [manchesterchickenbroil.org](http://manchesterchickenbroil.org) for details.

**6.** Visit your local library and **reread one of your childhood favorites**. I am planning on reading "My Side of the Mountain" by Jean Craighead George all over again. **Free.**

**7.** Listen to **live bluegrass at the Chelsea Alehouse** every Wednesday from 8-10 p.m. 420 N. Main Street, Chelsea. **Free.**

**8.** Visit **Star's Café** in Westgate Shopping Center, Ann Arbor. Try the falafel — it is delicious!

**9.** Take a **walk along the Huron River at Bandemer Park** early in the morning. **Free.**

**10. Relax.** Doing nothing has become a necessary counterbalance to the accelerating busyness of modern living. Carve out some time to just BE without any agenda. **Free!**

*Want to contribute to 10 for \$10? Please send ideas for inexpensive treasures and experiences in and around our vibrant community to:*

*submissions@groundcovernews.com*

## Free nicotine patches, gum, lozenges available

Is quitting smoking on your to-do list this summer? The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services can help with free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges through Sept. 30.

The offer is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Tips From Former Smokers campaign. Up to eight weeks of free nicotine patches, gum or lozenges are available to Michigan residents who call the Quitline at 800-QUIT-NOW. Enrollment is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"CDC's Tips campaign reminds people of the harmful effects of smoking and connects them with important resources like the Michigan Tobacco Quitline," said Dr. Joneigh Khaldun, MDHHS chief medical executive and chief deputy director for health. "I know all too well the terrible toll of smoking. MDHHS is committed to helping

Michiganders quit tobacco products and reduce their risk of tobacco-related illnesses like cancer and heart disease."

Smoking remains the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the United States. It kills about 480,000 Americans each year. For every person who dies from a smoking-related disease, at least 30 more people suffer at least one serious illness from smoking.

The Michigan Tobacco Quitline provides free phone and online coaching. More than 140,000 Michigan residents have used the Quitline or the online coaching program. The Quitline offers English, Arabic and Spanish-speaking counselors, as well as interpretive services for a wide variety of languages. For more information, visit:

[Michigan.gov/tobacco](http://Michigan.gov/tobacco).

## Funds will green up future skatepark

The Southeast Michigan Resilience Fund has awarded \$76,000 to build "green infrastructure" around a skatepark planned for Community Center Park in Ypsilanti.

The project may include bio swales, infiltration areas and rain gardens to eliminate runoff from this site that would otherwise drain into the Huron River. It will become sustainable habitat for pollinators and provide natural beauty to the park and its visitors, according to a release. The grant reduces

the burden on Washtenaw County Parks and the Tony Hawk Foundation, the principals behind the skatepark.

The Ypsilanti Township Board of Trustees approved Community Center Park in January as the site for a skate park. The park is at 2025 E. Clark Road.

This project is one of seven projects awarded funds totaling \$1.46 million in southeast Michigan. The grants by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will leverage \$2.5 million more in matching contributions.

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## Ypsilanti's Perry Preschool: A local success with global implications



by Will Shakespeare  
Groundcover  
Vendor #258

Ypsilanti's Perry Preschool Project was an experiment on the benefits of high-quality, early childhood education. Teachers involved with PPP in the 1960s say it effectively fought poverty. One teacher observed that PPP was a way to help children and families oppressed by poverty and racism.

After the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in a series of cases that "separate but equal" was no longer the law of the land, the question of equal opportunity in public education became a major issue. As the Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s raged, the Perry Preschool Project was created as an experiment to

find out whether early intervention in education would make a difference in life outcomes. Children who were three or four years old were selected between 1962 and 1967 to receive a high-quality preschool program. A control group that did not receive a comparable program was also selected.

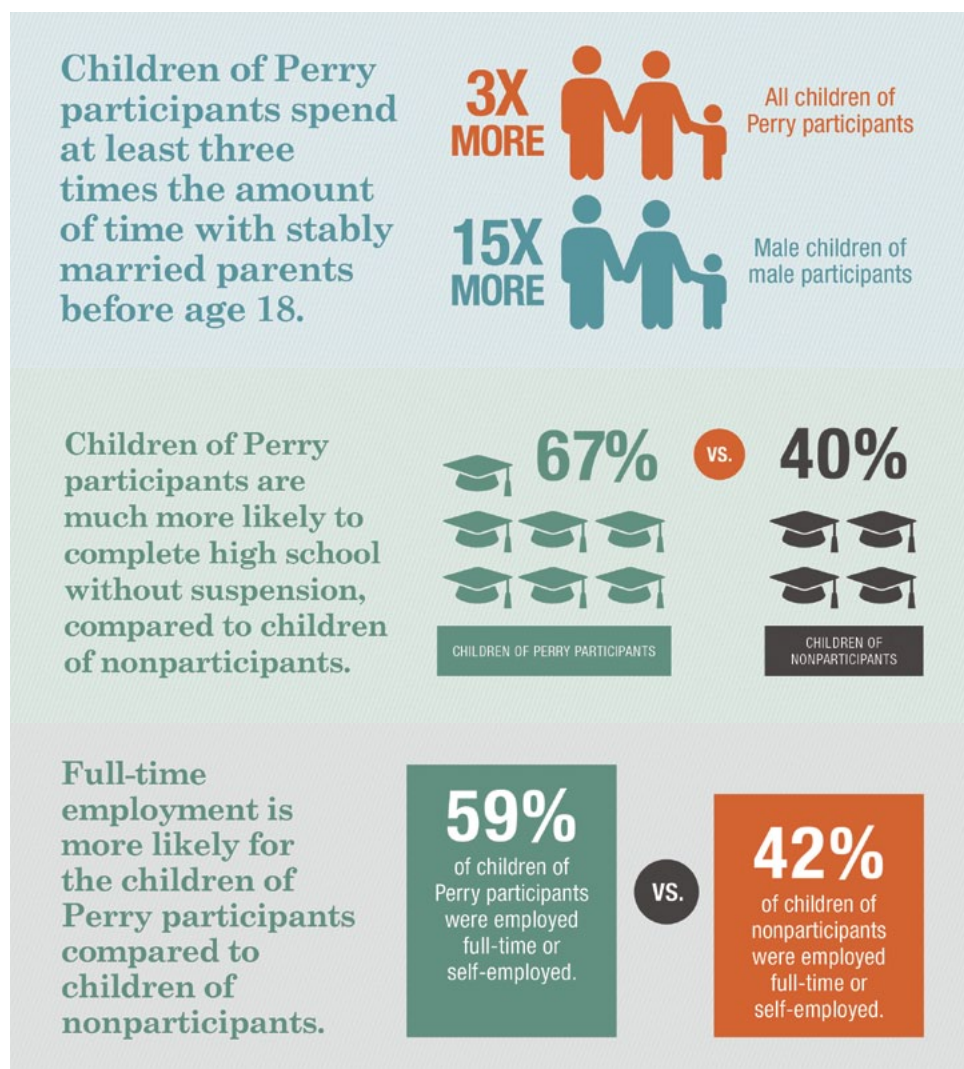
The study involved 123 African-American children from high-poverty neighborhoods that border Perry Elementary School. IQ tests were administered to ensure that the treatment group and the control group had similar low scores. In fact, the IQ test scores were so low that the state of Michigan would consider the children in the two groups mentally impaired. One group received intensive, innovative preschool training. The control group received normal education.

### The findings

James Heckman of the University of Chicago, who won a Nobel Prize in

Economics in 2000, has researched Perry Preschool since the 1960s. This year, he summarized the benefits of preschool on the participants at midlife; they had better education, health, employment and civic

see PPP STUDY, page 11



Source: Heckmanequation.org

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## War risk forces impossible choices

by Ashkan Kazemi  
Groundcover Contributor

You may have heard about the friction between the United States and Iran. The United States sent 1,500 more troops to the Middle East in late May and also sent the USS Abraham Lincoln to the Arabian Sea. That is as close as a military force can get to Iran from the south without starting a war.

How does this talk of war make a 25-year-old male Iranian studying in the United States feel? Hmm, let's see. I would probably be worrying about my status as a student in the states. Will I be kicked out? Will I be treated differently? What happens to my Ph.D. work? Can I go back to visit (as if it's not hard enough already)? If I go back, will I be allowed out of Iran again?

Will my family be safe? My brother in Iran who just turned 20 would prob-

ably be drafted if a war breaks out. Should I drop everything to help him get out of Iran? If not, would I be able to forgive myself if a war breaks out? Is getting him out of the country even the right thing to do? What about all those friends and people my age who have no choice but to fight in a situation like this? Will my staying out all of this be fair to them when they need my help

the most? I would be lying if I said I had the correct answer to any of these questions.

I bought a round-trip ticket to Tehran in March, before all of this began. The ticket was for three weeks, beginning in June. When

things started to get heated, my trip was constantly brought up in conversations with friends: "Are you really going to go back?" "What happens if a war breaks out?"

**"When you have the courage to not act conservatively, life will often surprise you with what it puts on your path."**

see IRAN, page 11

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## Grounded for a year, but not giving up



by Elizabeth “Lit”  
Kurtz  
Groundcover  
Vendor #159

As I sold the June issue of Groundcover last month, I explained to customers my desire to attend the International Street Paper Conference which is held annually bringing together street papers from around the globe.

The International Network of Street Papers was formed in 1995, six years after the first street paper was founded in New York City. The idea was to offer support and award the efforts of those who worked at street papers around the world.

The first INSP Summit was in London with 16 street papers in attendance. That number has tripled since then, and the INSP supports more than 100 street papers around the globe with an estimated readership of a million.

Yet even after a quarter-century and the spreading of street papers all around the world, the glaring oversight of vendor involvement still remains. Although vendors often make their way to the conference, we are not included in the activities and have no decision-making voice.

I set out to attend this year’s summit in Germany, to raise a voice for vendor inclusion. Many Groundcover customers with whom I spoke gave extra while expressing awe that after 25 years the INSP does not include vendors in its yearly summit.

Though I am juggling my life, barely holding on to the grid, my determination to represent Groundcover at the International Summit seemed like a reachable goal. I even got in touch with a vendor from Denmark who, after attending the 2016 INSP Summit in Greece, expressed concern about the need for a street paper vendor association and went as far as to draw up by-laws.

A week before the summit the travel packages to Hannover, Germany I

perused seemed within my reach. But as the date drew closer, the prices soared out of my grasp. I would not be attending this year.

My initial reaction was extreme disappointment, feeling that I had let down all who believed in the cause along with me. It felt much like what a politician might feel conceding a loss.

This had been no small task. While selling the paper, I made up flyers, sent emails and solicited support from all who would listen. I even asked my summer landlord to be flexible on payment dates, to which he agreed. But it was not meant to be this year.

When I finally allowed myself to put things in perspective, I came to the realization that this year has actually given a foundation from which to start building for 2020. The support received gave me renewed hope that increasing vendor participation at INSP summits is a worthwhile cause and I will continue to focus on it until it is given the attention it deserves.

All is not lost. This is a prime opportunity to gather support and the resources needed to seek vendor inclusion into future INSP summits.

While it seems unfathomable that vendors are not included in the annual conference, marginalized peoples throughout the decades have experienced what is just now coming to the fore in homelessness: the idea that real progress only happens when those impacted have a voice in decisions that affect them.

Over the next year, I will focus on joining other vendors around the globe who realize the need for vendor involvement and inclusion. I plan to write articles for Groundcover and my blog, “You Can’t Say that, Lit!”

While 2020 may not see an end to homelessness, hopefully it will mark the beginning of some of the people who are most affected having a say in the fight to end it.

To get INSP updates and links to my blog, please visit [litspage.weebly.com](https://litspage.weebly.com).

## Graffiti is not sanctified Mam

by Christopher Ellis  
Groundcover Contributor

“This is pathetic”  
coming from carriage  
mom,  
litter  
discarded serta cardboard  
beautyrest

Implementations decorate  
the arrival and  
visitation.

Bland pomp middleclass  
tidyness as  
laundry static sheet  
personified.

Art is pathos  
a beer can beside a  
concrete wall left behind  
a picasso teeterer  
alley inside gallery

sleeping bag unmade at the corners  
or on avenue state, or as  
green starred lady, on

Stained coffee cup, or  
plastic syrup  
concoctions  
spilling over  
aviance

garbage can.

## Sudoku ★★☆☆☆ 4puz.com

4								2	
5	1						3		9
9			2	3	1				
			3	2				5	7
			6		4				
2	5			8	7				
			7	4	2				6
8		6						9	4
	4								1

Fill in the squares so that each row, column, and 3-by-3 box contain the numbers 1 through 9.

## GROUNDCOVER VENDOR CODE

While Groundcover News is a non-profit organization that works with newspaper vendors who are considered contracted self-employers, we still have expectations of how vendors should conduct themselves while selling and representing the paper.

The following list is our Vendor Code of Conduct, which every vendor reads and signs before receiving a badge and papers. We request that if you discover a vendor violating any tenets of the code, please contact us and provide as many details as possible. Our paper and our vendors should be positively impacting our County.

**All vendors must agree to the following code of conduct:**

Groundcover News will be distributed for a voluntary donation of \$2, or the face value of the paper.

- I agree not to ask for more than face value or solicit donations by any other means.

- I will only sell current issues of Groundcover News.

- I agree not to sell additional goods or products when selling the paper or to panhandle, including panhandling with only one paper.

- I will wear and display my badge when selling papers.

- I will only purchase the paper from Groundcover News staff and will not sell to or buy papers from other Groundcover News vendors, especially vendors who have been suspended or terminated.

- I agree to treat all customers, staff and other vendors respectfully. I will not “hard sell,” threaten, harass or pres-

### Forget About It

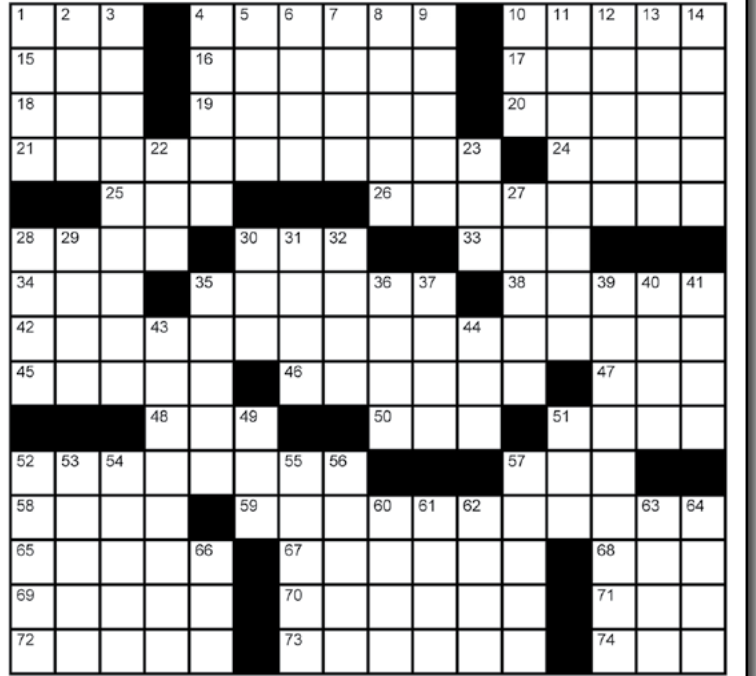
by Victor Fleming and Tracy Bennett

#### ACROSS

- Core muscles, informally
- Clue list heading, like the one above
- 2019 nominees for these include Alex Morgan and Simone Biles
- Curtis counterpart
- Apply a balm to, say
- "The Original Buns of \_\_\_\_" (DVD re-issue of a 1987 VHS)
- What Aussies call a car-based pickup
- Female flower part
- Meat in a real south-of-the-border chili recipe
- "Not for \_\_\_\_!" ("No way!")
- Sacred service, like marriage
- Involuntary muscle movement
- Absorb some hard-hitting criticism
- Landing page on the Web
- Web crawler that might post agitating comments
- \_\_\_\_ Pen (allergy antidote brand)
- Snowden's old org.
- Look high and low
- Faith that observes Ramadan
- "Not for \_\_\_\_!" ("No way!")
- High-grade term coined by Sir Thomas Lipton
- Good days?
- Bearded antelope
- Jedi heroine in recent "Star Wars" films
- On-line forum controller, briefly
- Coffee alternative at Starbucks
- Where conception may occur (since 1978)
- Ann Arbor Street \_\_\_\_ Fair (annual event in July)
- Convention or trade fair
- "Not for \_\_\_\_!" ("No way!")
- Mollycoddle rotten
- Unleash a tirade or other unpleasant emission
- Wrath
- Brief and to the point
- Available at a discount
- Soccer no-score
- Wintry mix that almost sticks
- Blown dry or finger curled
- Salon goop

#### DOWN

- Stand against?
- Joni Mitchell's "\_\_\_\_ Sides Now"
- Lover's honeyed words
- Savory jelly
- Beehive or pompadour, e.g.
- Bowl (game first won by the Wolverines in 1902)
- Neugebauer who founded Mathematical Reviews
- Change gears, in a way
- 2014 Ava DuVernay film
- "Get me outta here" key
- Five-pointed echinoderm
- Jeopardy
- Gossip girl?
- Smooth and shiny
- Recline... perhaps untruthfully
- \_\_\_\_ out a living
- Grand and glorious tales
- Pass the breaking point, say
- Tropical sailing destination, perhaps
- Spelling contest
- Solemn vow
- Family's ancestral map
- Unit of linen or ice
- Maintaining composure
- City with an annual hula competition
- Stormy flash
- "True Blood" actress Paquin



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- Molokai's neighbor
- Unlikely winner in a fabled race
- \_\_\_\_ off (get drowsy)
- "The King and I" leading man
- Brynnr
- \_\_\_\_-Magnon man
- Tastes before serving, say
- Kick out of school
- Mushroom starter
- Western ties
- Noteworthy occasion
- Plugged in, musically
- Popular crafter's website
- Like a dissertation defense, typically
- Provoke
- Great Lake in a rival University's state
- Shout loudly
- The Beatles album "\_\_\_\_ it Be"

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## A Remembering Gene

by Christopher Ellis

In the microscopic  
kernel that contains  
stores  
plays in the sky  
sits still  
as our stories move ...

Is cosmos  
really  
a  
brain!

Offering aroma  
out of place  
vivid  
slice through open door and

Opaque blue corridor  
windows  
floating  
on  
the  
ground.

## Oblivious

by Christopher Ellis

There seems to be a  
Hole between the things of  
Our happiness,  
A bubble unseen multiplied  
Millions of times an  
Infinitesimal carrier.

Transporting shields surrounding inside  
Worlds and mundane  
Things. existences  
so far so near  
Drinks on cup of coffee

Rain on hurried footsteps

Soccer balls on children      In 8 a.m. out by five  
Brides are smiling  
Faces on a coffin  
Sameness indifferent to  
Sameness  
Bubbles never touching  
Float on pass  
Expode! the individual myth

The individual is dying

Is tired to the suffering theater

This clothing is tired and unwashed is- nude

Nude

Nude

Nude.

## PPP study

continued from page 6

participation than their peers who didn't have high-quality education at a young age.

"Early childhood education resulted in stronger families, and significantly contributed to upward mobility in the next generation," Heckman's report stated. The key takeaway: Programs like the Perry Preschool Project can strengthen families and break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness.

Ypsilanti became a global news headline this summer because of the implications of Heckman's findings. When a poor child from a disadvantaged community receives high-quality preschool education — which involves positive relationships between children and teachers, positive relationships between families and teachers and support systems in the child's social network — miracles can happen. High-quality early childhood education can lower the crime rate and end the school-to-prison pipeline. The benefits can be generational. It is the "gift that keeps on giving."

The remarkable success of the Perry Preschool Project has policy implications for poverty in the United States and the United Nations' global effort to lift children and families out of poverty. Ypsilanti's PPP is in the news in China, Europe, Africa, Canada, Latin America and Southeast Asia. The story resonates around the world, where more than 50% live below any measurable threshold for poverty lines. News media, policymakers and educators follow research on the PPP.

"The children of the participants are healthier, earning more," Heckman said May 23 on National Public Radio. "They have better social and emotional skills, are more likely to graduate high school and go on to college, less likely to be incarcerated or be arrested. So, what you see is beneficial effects that go on to the next generation."

### Curriculum vs. teachers

In a 2016 article, one of the teachers who took part in the PPP in the '60s, Louise Derman-Sparks, challenged the notion that the curriculum at Perry was the source of its success. She credited teachers who used "prevailing

early-childhood thinking at the time, while also plowing some new ground." Derman-Sparks said that from 1963 to 1965, teachers drove the evolution of PPP's curriculum, not the High/Scope Educational Foundation's curriculum. The teachers met every Friday afternoon to discuss observations of the children during the week, Derman-Sparks said. Later, they collaborated on a number of feasible plans that improve learning, cognition, and socio-economic development. During the fourth and fifth years of the program, the teachers explored how Jean Piaget's theory of children's cognitive development could inspire the Ypsilanti Perry Preschool Project.

Regardless of the pupils' low IQ test scores, the teachers believed in the children's intelligence and ability to learn, she said. The teachers refused to view the children the same way as project administrators, who had "the tendency to view children through the lens of their deficits." The teachers "paid attention to the specific cognitive, emotional, and physical needs of each child." The teachers believed that "emotional well-being and emerging cogni-

tive abilities are the brick and mortar of the foundation of human development." The teachers also paid close attention to the intersection between the children's cognition and their language development.

"In year one, two, and three of Perry Preschool, the teachers used a variety of cognitive-development teaching approaches," Derman-Sparks said. They also tried ideas from other early-childhood-education pioneers such as Maria Montessori, Sarah Smilanksy, Irving Siegel and Jean Piaget. The teachers believed children learn "through their active engagement with the world. They were encouraged to explore their ideas in many ways, including drama and many field trips."

The experiment that started in Ypsilanti in 1962 has revolutionized preschool and early childhood education. We now know that the benefits outweigh the costs. The Federal Head Start program of 1965 was born because of the preliminary assessment of PPP as a model for fighting and winning what President Lyndon B. Johnson called "the war against poverty."

## Iran

continued from page 7

On social media, students in similar situations discussed the same thing. In my head, I kept thinking about what happened to Tomas in Milan Kundera's "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" when he returned to Prague after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia. Tomas, a famous surgeon, had to clean windows for a living because of conflicts with the government. He knew this might happen before returning to Prague from Switzerland, but ignored it for his love, Tereza. That is exactly how I felt back then. Will I be content with myself not pursuing a career in academic or industrial AI research as I always wanted to and instead live in a conflicted country? Should I ignore everything I care about back home? What is the right decision here?

I was born four years after the Iran and Saddam-ruled Iraq war ended. The war lasted eight years, during

which one million Iranians (2% of the population) died. In the aftermath, I experienced multiple sanctions and economic crashes over the years (read: normal people getting poorer). The last round of sanctions imposed by President Trump made me lose a major part of my savings before coming to the states. I had no reason to be optimistic about anything.

The fact that I'm writing this article on my favourite couch in my parents' house in Tehran will tell you that, like Tomas, I decided to go back and visit. Some of you might understand and some of you might wonder why someone would risk something like that. Maybe because I knew that either way things were not likely to be in my favor in the event that a war broke out and staying in the states might be as bad as being in Iran. Maybe because both my grandfathers were really sick and this might have been an opportunity for me to see them one last time.

Or maybe it was because of that girl I had a massive crush on that I wanted to visit Tehran.

In my visit, I got to see my grandparents and ask out the girl I had a crush on. Things got a little bit better between Iran and the United States, as Japan's prime minister visited Iran to facilitate negotiations. Could things have gone south? Possibly. But would not taking this trip have helped anything?

I would say that always living life conservatively might be wasting it. Living conservatively doesn't guarantee that nothing bad happens to you. Maybe just being from somewhere like Iran means trouble for its people, living conservatively or not. Do I mean you should risk everything you have at all times? Of course not. But when you have the courage to not act conservatively, life will often surprise you with what it puts on your path.



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2	5	4	1	8	7	9	6	3
1	3	9	7	4	2	5	8	6
8	2	6	5	1	3	7	9	4
7	4	5	8	9	6	2	3	1

1	A	B	S		4	A	C	R	O	S	S		10	E	S	P	Y	14						
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72	S	L	E	E	T		73	S	T	Y	L	E	D		74	G	E	L						



## Mexican street corn salad with avocado

by Elizabeth Bauman

### Ingredients

4 ears fresh corn, husked and kernels cut from cob (3½ cups)  
1½ Tbs. vegetable oil  
Generous pinch of salt  
1/3 cup chopped green onion  
1/3 cup chopped cilantro leaves

1 minced jalapeno pepper; remove seed before mincing  
1 clove garlic, minced  
3 ounces Cotija cheese, finely crumbled  
3 Tbs. mayonnaise  
1½ Tbs. fresh lime juice, divided  
¾ tsp. chili powder  
2 avocados, peeled and diced

### Directions

Heat vegetable oil in a large skillet until shimmering. Add corn, season with salt to taste. Cook, tossing every two minutes until corn is well-charred (about 6-10 minutes). Remove from heat and allow to cool slightly.

Add corn to a mixing bowl with remaining ingredients except the avocados, one ounce of the cheese and 1/4 tsp. of the chili powder. Gently toss, then add avocados. Gently toss again and top with remaining cheese and chili powder. *Serve immediately.*



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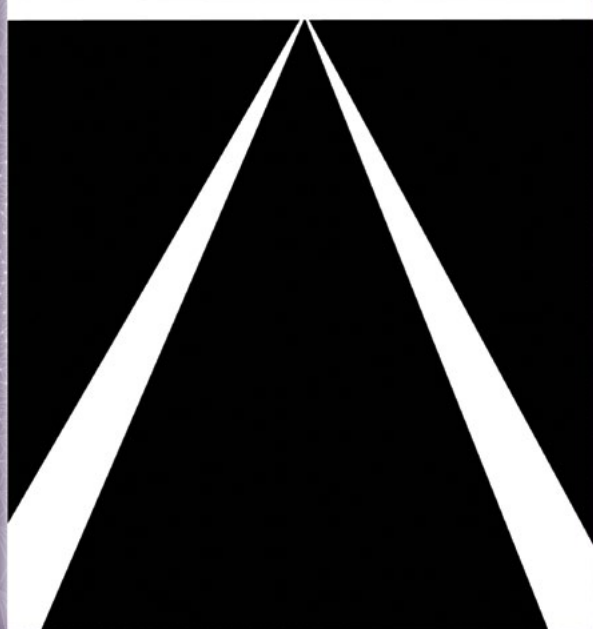
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